

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

Amend the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* to allocate 60-80% of northern-bound sockeye and coho salmon harvests to Northern Cook Inlet fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan. (a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement of salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions, **and to provide Northern Cook Inlet user groups an allocation of 60-80% of Northern bound Upper Cook Inlet sockeye and coho salmon harvests. Consistent with providing this harvest allocation,** the department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Central District Drift Gillet Fishery Management Plan, after providing for escapement needs, has provided inadequate passage of Northern sockeye and coho salmon to provide reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern Cook Inlet User Groups. Northern sport, commercial, and personal use fisheries have been restricted and/ or closed and subsistence fisheries have experienced low harvests when the largest share of Northern bound sockeye and coho salmon has been harvested by the Central District drift gill net fishery. Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee, therefore respectfully requests a harvest allocation of Northern bound sockeye and coho salmon to provide shared reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern Cook Inlet user groups.

When considering the proposed allocation, or a board revised allocation level, the committee encourages the board to compare salmon harvests levels of all Upp per Cook Inlet user groups.

When determining reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern Cook Inlet users, the advisory committee requests utilization of the Board adopted approach listed in Management Guidelines for Allocating Southeast Alaska Pink, Chum, and Sockeye Salmon Between Commercial Net Fisheries. - From 5 AAC 33.363:

(c) As a general matter, the harvest of fish stocks will be managed primarily for the benefit of the user groups within the district to which those stocks are bound. The board recognizes that biological, social, and economic factors and the current regulatory structure may result in the need to harvest such stocks outside the district for which they are bound.

The committee encourages managers and user groups to provide suggestions how to structure the drift gill net fishery to allow reasonable harvests of Northern sockeye and coho stocks in Northern District waters while maintaining drift harvest levels of Central District sockeye.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-039)
